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SENT DEPARTMENT 1653; REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 126.

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NOFORN FROM THURSTON.

AMBASSADOR BANKENHORN CALLED ON GENERAL NORSTAD TODAY AND IN SOMEWHAT DISCURSIVE AND OBLIQUE ACCOUNT OF GERMAN REACTIONS TO RECENT DE GAULLE MEMORANDUM LEFT IMPRESSION THAT THOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FOLLOW TACTFUL PATH WITH DE GAULLE, IT HAD DECIDED AFTER SOME DELIBERATION TO CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF ACCORDING HIGHEST PRIORITY TO ITS RELATIONSHIP TO U.S. HE ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT FRENCH POLICY AN UNDERLYING ANIMOSITY TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN POWERS AND A DESIRE TO LINE UP GERMANY AND ITALY AS A COUNTERWEIGHT.

ANOTHER POINT OF INTEREST WAS BLANKENHORN'S EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR U.S. TO KEEP DEFENSE MINISTER STRAUSS PROPERLY ORIENTED. HE INDICATED THAT BEFORE HIS RECENT TRIP TO U.S. STRAUSS WAS ATTRACTED BY THE POSSIBILITIES OF INDEPENDENT ACTION THROUGH THE FIG COMBINE AND THAT ANOTHER STRAUSS VISIT TO U.S. WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ALL THIS WAS SAID IN CONTEXT OF HIS ESTIMATE OF STRAUSS AS LEADING CANDIDATE FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN FEDREP WHEN ADENAUER PASSES FROM SCENE

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Authority

NARA, Date

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LYON

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